

Message Text

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51

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AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, AFSP, GE

SUBJECT: REAL ESTATE IN EAST BERLIN

REF: BERLIN 10

1. DURING AN OCTOBER 29 MEETING AT THE GDR DIPLOMATIC SERVICES OFFICE (DLA) TO DISCUSS ARCHITECTURAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE HEINRICH-MANN-STRASSE RESIDENCE (SEPTTEL), THE FOLLOWING RELATED MATTERS CAME UP:

A) TAKING POSSESSION OF US PROPERTIES. LOEFFLER, DLA DIRECTOR, PROPOSED THAT POSSESSION OF THE TEMPORARY SCHADOWSTRASSE CHANCERY AND FOUR HOUSES (HEINRICH-MANN-STRASSE, MAJAKOWSKIRING 50, PFEILSTRASSE 14 A AND PLATANENSTRASSE 39) BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE DLA TO THE EMBASSY ON NOVEMBER 1 WE SAID THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE REGARDING THE PLATANENSTRASSE PROPERTY.

B) LOEFFLER PROPOSED THAT THE LEIPZIGERSTRASSE APARTMENTS BE TRANSFERRED TO US ON NOVEMBER 4.

C) PROVIDING PROPERTIES ARE IN SATISFACTORY CONDITION, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER JAMES WEINER WILL SIGN "TRANSFER/ ACCEPTANCE FORMS" ON BEHALF OF THE EMBASSY.

D) PLATANENSTRASSE 39. WE CAREFULLY INSPECTED THIS PROPERTY ON OCTOBER 24. THE GENERAL LAYOUT AND THE POOR

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KITCHEN AND BATHROOM FACILITIES MAKE IT A MARGINAL RESIDENCE. HOWEVER, OUR IMMEDIATE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL LIVING QUARTERS FOR STAFF SUGGESTS THAT WE TAKE IT, PROVIDED THAT THE HOUSE CAN BE IMPROVED BY MODEST RENOVATIONS. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE FBO ARCHITECT COULD PROVIDE A PROFESSIONAL EVALUATION BEFORE RETURNING TO THE US.

E) MAJAKOWSKIRING. IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THIS PROPERTY FOR ENTERTAINING, WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO DLA THE DESIRABILITY OF CUTTING A DOOR THROUGH THE WALL SEPARATING THE LIVING ROOM FROM THE DINING. ROOM. DLA IS AGREEABLE PROVIDED THE OWNER OF THE HOUSE CONCURS. HERE AGAIN, WE WOULD HOPE FBO ARCHITECT WOULD BE ABLE TO PROFFER ADVICE.

F) TWO ADDITIONAL SIX ROOM APARTMENTS (PARA 4 C REFTTEL). LOEFFLER PROMISED TO PROVIDE ON NOVEMBER 4 MORE EXACT TIME FRAME REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF THESE PROPERTIES.

2. WE PLAN TO INFORM LOEFFLER THAT WE ARE NO LONGER INTERESTED IN THE ESPLANADE RESIDENCE (BERLIN 15).

3. ASSUMING OUR TEMPORARY OFFICE SPACE IS SATISFACTORY, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO OPEN THE EMBASSY ON NOVEMBER 11. WE WILL ADVISE SEPARATELY ON THIS POINT.GROVE

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